

**Central Falls School District Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2015**  
**Ella Risk Conference Room, Lower Level**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Chairperson Anna Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Present were Stephanie Gonzalez, Hugo Figueroa, Diosa Martinez, Sonia Grace, and Ron Pitt. Ana-Cecilia Rosado arrived at 6:15 PM
- II. Pledge- Patricia Martinez led us in the Pledge
- III. Approval of the meeting minutes of January 13, 2015 - A motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 13, 2015, was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Grace. The vote was called. Motion carried. (6,0)
- IV. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirement- Dr. Gallo noted that Denise Olean resigned and Jill Harris was to be appointed to the middle school. A motion to approve the resignation and the appointment was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Martinez. Motion carried. (6,0)
- V. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget - A motion to approve the payment of bills pending the completed review by Ms. Grace was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried. (6,0)
- VI. Request from Deloris Grant – Ms. Grant informed the Trustees that a select group from the Thespian Society was heading to New York City pending Board approval. Ms. Grant delineated the itinerary and explained that this trip was fully funded by a grant received last year and carefully monitored to last as long as possible. Ms. Grant also informed the trustees of a production to take place at Mixed Magic Theater on March 6 at 7 PM and of the Oration Festival taking place this coming weekend. A motion to approve the overnight trip was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Grace. Motion carried. (6,0)
- VII. Public Comment- Ms. Sessums, President of the CF Teachers' Union, spoke against the Board's action during the last meeting approving the contract for special education oversight services with Blackstone Valley Mayoral Prep (BVP) stating that the Central Falls Schools deserved a full time special education director. Ms. Sessums also noted that in her opinion Ms. Gonzalez should have recused herself from that vote since she is an associate of BVP. Lastly, Ms. Sessums requested information as to how the Trustees planned to search for a new superintendent as time

was moving quickly, reminding the Board that the union by contract has two seats on any formed search committee.

Three parents then spoke. Maria Cristina Betancour, Nancy Vasquez, and Maria, President of the Veterans Elementary School Parent Organization. Each wanted to thank Dr. Gallo for her service and dedication. They each requested the trustees to find someone of like mind who will continue the partnerships, and keep the doors open to the parents. One of the parents went so far as to suggest Mr. Capellan, former Deputy Superintendent for Transformation because of his experience with the work.

VIII. Second Reading of Independent Contractor/Employee Policy

A motion to approve the Independent Contractor/Employee Policy was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion carried. (6,0,1)

IX. Parent Engagement Report – Patricia Martinez presented the details of the work accomplished by volunteers, the hours, the training, the assistance, all resonated well with the Trustees. The fact that the completion rate of the three modules of the Parent College offered since the conception of the College is 80% was stunning news. Our Rhode Island College Partner and Ms. Martinez are working very hard to establish certificate programming for our parents enrolled. Currently the ESL classes are the most popular, seconded by technology training. An astounding 3223 volunteer hours have been accumulated between the opening of school this academic year and the end of December. This equates to the number of hours of six full time people. The Trustees aptly noted these amazing figures and expressed deep gratitude to Ms. Martinez and all the parents of Central Falls who so willingly give of their time to enhance the education of their children.

X. Superintendent Comment – Dr. Gallo noted the five snow days causing a delay in the rollout of the Chromebooks,; however she assured everyone that the work of assigning and recording the data matching student IDs to the Chromebook IDs was continuing. The superintendent reported that the parent participation at the forums remained high and that the Chromebooks have been on everyone's mind. Dr. Gallo informed the trustees that RWU and Samsung were gifting the large touch screen and computers to the CFHS Science Department explaining the interactive nature of the material and how the science department planned to utilize the technology to its fullest.

XI. Board Comment- Chair Person Morales informed the Trustees that it is the obligation of the group to present a name to the Commissioner in

terms of a new superintendent. She made it clear that this responsibility is embedded in the law.

- XII. A motion for approval to convene in Executive Session under General Laws 42-46-5(a)(2), that this body convene in executive session to discuss certain matters that are the subject of collective bargaining and litigation, and to conduct work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried. (7,0)
- XIII. A motion to come out of executive session and seal the minutes was made by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. A roll call vote was taken. All agreed.
- XIV. Next **Re-Scheduled Meeting: February 26, 2015 at 5:30 PM** at the Ella Risk School. Topic: 2015-2016 Configuration/Projections
- XV. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made at 9:15 PM by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Grace.